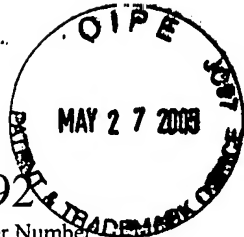


32692
Customer Number



Patent
Case No.: 59067US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: CRAWFORD, GREGORY P.
Application No.: 10/748562 Group Art Unit: 2871
Filed: December 30, 2003 Examiner: Chen, Wen Ying Patty
Title: ALIGNMENT OF LIQUID CRYSTALS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR § 1.8(a)]	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:	
<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>	deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
<input type="checkbox"/>	transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9306.
<u>5/19/05</u> Date	<u>[Signature]</u> Signed by: Gregg H. Rosenblatt

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 29, 2005.

A separate Petition for Extension Of Time (One Month) Under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) and authorization to charge the extension of time fee to Assignee's deposit account (Deposit Account No. 13-3723) is included with this Amendment.

Claims 1-53 are pending. Claims 1-53 were restricted under 35 USC § 121 as follows:

I. Claims 1-51 and 53 are said to be drawn to methods of aligning liquid crystal, classified in Class 349, subclass 42;

II. Claims 52 are said to be drawn to an article, classified in Class 385.

In addition, Group I was identified as containing five distinct species (1) – (5). Further, specie (1) was identified as containing seven sub-species a) – g), with each sub-specie containing two or more sub-sub-species. Applicants election is described below.

Election

In response, Applicants elect Group I, without traverse.

Election of Species

The Examiner further directed Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Accordingly, Applicants provisionally elect the specie (1) described by claims 1-45: the specifics of the method of aligning liquid crystal by exposing an alignment material to an interference pattern to cause a chemical reaction in the alignment material wherein the liquid crystal aligns relative to the alignment material based on the interference pattern.

Applicants further provisionally elect sub-specie a) of specie (1):

a) the specifics of the method of alignment wherein the chemical reaction causes.

Applicants further provisionally elect sub-sub-specie i) of sub-specie a) of specie (1):

i) polymerization in the alignment material.

To the best of its understanding of the complicated election of species required by the Patent Office, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 reads on the elected sub-sub-species, and that claims 1 and at least claims 11-24 are generic to the provisionally elected sub-sub species, and thus should be examined together.

Applicants respectfully request that if a generic claim is finally held to be allowable, all species should be examined.

Because of the complicated nature of the restriction/election requirement, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned if the above election is not well understood. Applicants intention is to file a fully responsive communication herewith.

Conclusion

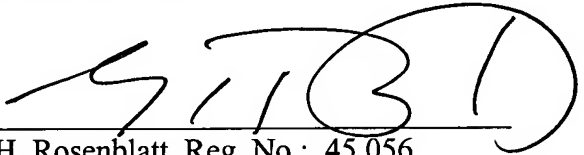
Applicants have elected Group I, specie (1), sub-specie a), sub-sub-specie i). Continued prosecution of this application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner determine that a telephone interview would be beneficial in resolving any of the issues in this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,

5/19/05
Date

By:


Gregg H. Rosenblatt, Reg. No.: 45,056
Telephone No.: (512) 984-7443

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833